

Remarks

Claim 32 has been cancelled. Claims 22, 29, 33 are currently amended.

Double Patenting

Claims 22 and 25, 29, and 33-35 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness type double patenting over claims 1-7, 9-16, and 18-20 of copending Application No. 09/099,983.

Applicants have submitted a timely Terminal Disclaimer Under 37 CFR § 1.321(b) with this response. Accordingly, the above rejection should be withdrawn.

112 Rejections

Claim 32 was rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

Applicants intended to cancel claim 32 in their last response. Applicants have now cancelled claim 32 rendering the above rejection moot.

103 Rejections

Claims 22, 25-29, and 32-37 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kovacs (US 6,206,517) in view of Akutsu (GB 2 147 003).

Claim 32 has been cancelled.

Kovacs et al. disclose salts at column 3, lines 1-14, and Akutsu et al. (US 4,740,420, counterpart to GB 2 147 003) disclose cations and salts at column 1, line 63 to column 3, line 18.

Applicants have amended claims 22, 29, and 33 by deleting salts and cations disclosed in Kovacs et al. and Akutsu et al. (US 4,740,420). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the above rejection of claims 22, 25-29, and 33-37 be withdrawn.

Claims 22, 25-26, 28, 29, and 32-37 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wallace (US 4,889,765) in view of Akutsu.

Claim 32 has been cancelled. Akutsu et al. (US 4,740,420) has been discussed above.

Wallace does not mention salts or cations. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the above rejection of claims 22, 25-26, 28-29, and 33-37 be withdrawn.

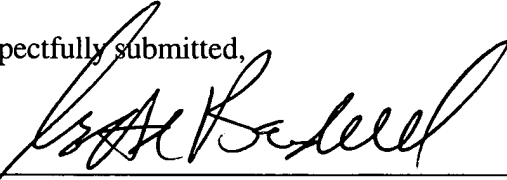
In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Allowance of claims 22, 25-31, and 33-39, as amended, at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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